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5 September 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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South Korea: (The prospects for peaceful elections in South Korea this fall are threatened by growing extremism of the ruling junta's dominant elements and growing public criticism of the regime.)

(Hard-core followers of former security chief Kim Chong-pil are stepping up their efforts to silence the regime's moderates. They are placing increasing pressure on junta leader Pak Chong-hui to adopt repressive measures against rivals inside and outside the regime. Excessively harsh repressive measures, however, could set off a chain reaction of public defiance of the regime.)

(The moderates are attempting to overcome recent setbacks. Kim Chae-chun, deposed director of the South Korean CIA, and former prime minister Song Yo-chan are attempting to develop the Liberal-Democratic Party as an alternative to the Kim Chong-pil-dominated Democratic-Republican Party. Kim Chong-pil's followers, however, have already arrested Song Yo-chan on the basis of several dubious criminal charges.)

(Civilian opposition leaders have attained surface unity in tentatively selecting the respected Ho Chong to run in the October presidential race. Beset by factional strife, however, the opposition has been unable to translate public discontent with the regime into positive support for themselves.)

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Honduras: Political tension is mounting with the approach of the general elections scheduled for 13 October.

Modesto Rodas Alvarado, the presidential candidate of the ruling Liberal Party, seems virtually assured of winning any freely contested elections. He is, however, anathema to the opposition Nationalist Party, is distrusted by some military leaders, and does not have the support of President Ramon Villeda Morales.

The US Embassy reports there has been increasing restlessness in Tegucigalpa in the past few weeks, and that there is much talk of a military coup d'etat. So far, however, those elements that might favor a coup do not possess sufficient strength or a satisfactory pretext for such a move.

The emergence of a force capable of attempting a coup may nonetheless result from Villeda's apparent effort to enlist military support against Rodas. This is reflected in Villeda's recent appointment of Napoleon Cubas Turcios as the director of the Civil Guard. Cubas, a competent officer who is acceptable to the military, reportedly would like to end the Civil Guard's alignment with the Liberal Party and take it out of politics.

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NOTES

Jordan-France: Jordan, beset by chronic financial problems, is seeking economic assistance from France. When he visits Paris next week King Husayn will discuss the subject with President de Gaulle. The French ambassador in Amman has been encouraged by his government to extend some form of aid to Jordan.

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